



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

June 26, 2006



Environmental Assessment UT-USO-06-004

**No-Impact Commercial Filming on BLM-Managed Lands in Utah within Wilderness
Study Areas and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

***Location:* Utah**

***Applicant/Address:* Various Applicants**

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management routinely receives applications for “no impact” commercial filming on lands throughout the state, including lands identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (Monument) that would be at a casual use level except for its commercial nature. This type of commercial filming is distinctly different from commercial filming for major motion pictures. There is no surface disturbance with no-impact commercial filming. The intent is to film in a completely natural setting with only a few people involved using hand-held cameras or cameras with tripods. The majority of this type of commercial filming is conducted along with recreation activities that are already taking place in WSAs, such as hunting, horseback trail rides, river rafting, hiking, biking, canyoneering, camping, etc. Commercial products, typically DVDs and/or videos, resulting from no-impact commercial filming may be sold on the internet, in retail stores, or made for commercial broadcast.

Non-commercial no-impact filming, such as videos or photographs taken by hikers, campers, horseback riders, river rafters, etc., does not require a permit since **the use meets the definition of casual use under 43 CFR 2920.0-5(k)**, which states: “*Casual use* means any short term non-commercial activity which does not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources or improvements, and which is not prohibited by closure of the lands to such activities.” It is only the commercial nature of this filming that makes a permit necessary under the 2920 regulations.

A Special Recreation Permit (SRP) issued under 43 CFR 2930 is required for commercial activities such as outfitting and guiding, outfitted trail rides, guided river rafting, etc. Photography associated with such SRP-permitted commercial recreational activities can be permitted by the SRP provided that filming is only for the location and duration of the SRP. The inclusion of minimum-impact filming adds no environmental impacts to the SRP-authorized activities. However, if filming will occur at any time or place outside the time limit and/or location of an SRP, a filming permit under 43 CFR 2920 is required for all of the filming. An example of such a situation would be anyone, including an outfitter/guide, commercially filming wildlife when not directly engaged with a guided hunt.

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), requires that BLM manage public lands for multiple uses. In addition, Section 302 (b) of FLPMA specifically requires that BLM regulate commercial uses through the use of permits, etc., therefore a commercial activity such as filming is an appropriate use of public lands. Commercial filming permits are discretionary actions in which a proponent files an application with BLM requesting a permit. BLM must consider the application and respond to such applications by either permitting or denying the application. In processing such an application, BLM must analyze the proposal to determine the potential environmental effects, consistency with BLM policy, objectives, resource management programs and conformity with its land use planning. BLM Handbook

H-8550-1, Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, Chapter II, B.6, states that the use of NEPA categorical exclusion (CX) reviews for uses in WSAs *is not allowed*. Because BLM receives up to 50 applications per year for no-impact commercial filming permits in WSAs, preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment was determined to be the most efficient and effective method of notifying the public and making informed decisions on these applications.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)

Issuing no-impact commercial filming permits is in conformance with all Utah BLM land use plans. The activity is considered casual use but a permit is required because of the commercial nature of the activity.

Existing WSAs are managed under the BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) and guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM Handbook H-8550-1) until legislation takes effect to change their status. The major objective of the IMP is to manage lands under wilderness review in a manner that does not impair their suitability for designation as wilderness. In general, the only activities permissible under the IMP are temporary uses that do not create surface disturbance or involve permanent placement of structures. The IMP provides for permits under 43 CFR 2920 and 2930 to be issued if BLM determines that the use in question satisfies the "non-impairment" standard and that such permits contain a stipulation that if the WSA is designated as a wilderness area, the permit may be terminated.

RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS

Issuing commercial filming permits is authorized under Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1732), the implementing regulations at 43 CFR 2920 and corresponding BLM Manual 2920. Principal authorities affecting use and management of lands under wilderness review are FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1782), BLM Manual 8550 and its corresponding Handbook H-8550-1, *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* (IMP). Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are authorized under FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4061-6a).

As defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the proposed action is an undertaking. However, in accordance with the implementing regulations set forth at 36CFR800.3(a)(1), the proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties, even assuming that historic properties might be present. Therefore, beyond documenting a finding of *no potential to cause effects*, no additional efforts are required in order to comply with Section 106 of NHPA. Additionally, in accordance with the Utah Protocol which may be followed by BLM Utah in all offices except Vernal FO, Section VII.C.1 provides additional exemption from further compliance efforts. This action is in conformance with the NHPA and no further compliance efforts are required.

Filming is consistent with county and state plans that generally encourage economic use and development of lands in Utah.

Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This Programmatic Environmental Assessment focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to issue no-impact commercial filming permits on BLM-managed public lands within Wilderness Study Areas and the Monument. It is estimated that approximately 50 no-impact commercial filming permits would be issued per year. No-impact permits would be issued pursuant to the 43 CFR 2920 regulations and would allow the holder to take pictures, both still and moving, for commercial purposes. Permits issued pursuant to 43 CFR 2920 would convey no possessory interest, would be for temporary use not to exceed 3 years, and would be revocable as provided by the terms of the permits and the provisions of 43 CFR 2920.9-3. Permits may be renewed at the discretion of the BLM Authorized Officer. The number and/or duration of new permits in specific areas would be reduced and, if necessary, canceled or revoked, if it is determined that an area is getting congested.

BLM would screen each no-impact commercial filming proposal for compliance with the criteria discussed below. If all of the criteria are met, a decision may be made to permit the proposal based on this EA. The requirement for a 30 day notice before taking actions inside WSAs (BLM Handbook H-8550-1, Chapter IIB.3) would be met by providing notice of each filming proposal on the Utah BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) for 30 days prior to implementation of the action.

Criteria for No-Impact Commercial Filming:

Filming would be by use of hand-held cameras or cameras with tripods. Walking, hiking, and horseback riding on existing trails and cross country would occur. Except within that portion of the Moquith Mountain WSA where cross-country vehicle use of sand dunes is allowed, all vehicle use would occur only on boundary roads and vehicle ways designated in the respective land use plan as open to vehicular use. Duration of filming in any one location would be less than 10 days, with the typical time being an average of 1-3 days. The total number of personnel associated with this type of filming would typically be 5 or fewer people.

There would be no removal of vegetation or soils; no use of dollies, tracks, cranes, high lines or other major camera support devices or platforms; no construction of movie sets; no use of props or artificial lighting; no use of explosives, pyrotechnics, or fires; no climbing (or the appearance of climbing) on natural bridges or arches, in archaeological sites, or within

breeding habitats of threatened or endangered species. There would be no use of exotic species. No vehicular cross country travel (except as previously discussed) would be allowed. No use of heavy equipment would be allowed. No taking off or landing, or flying of aircraft less than 2,000 feet above the ground surface would be permitted. Permit stipulations will include weed prevention measures such as inspection of equipment and clothing and requirement of weed-free feed for horses. Public access would not be restricted as a result of no-impact commercial filming activities.

During the summer fire season, filmers would carry a shovel and water to suppress fires, and vehicles would remain on roads that lack annual grasses that could be ignited by catalytic converters or hot mufflers.

Any activity that would take place within listed Mexican spotted owl, bald eagle, and California condor habitat would be subject to the conditions outlined in the *Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances* (USDI, FWS, 2002). If filming were to take place near suitable southwestern willow flycatcher habitats one of the following would be applied: 1) filming would occur outside of the willow flycatcher nesting season, 2) crews would maintain a mile buffer to minimize disturbances to nesting flycatchers, or 3) flycatcher surveys would be conducted prior to filming to determine presence/absence, and avoidance measures would be implemented where occupied habitats occur. Riparian habitats would remain unharmed.

Proposals for no-impact commercial filming permits within WSAs would be reviewed at the local BLM field offices to assure they meet the non-impairment standard defined in BLM Handbook H-8550-1.

The proposed activity would also be screened to assure it meets strict “no-impact” criteria prior to being approved. This includes no impact to the following **Critical Elements** of the human environment:

Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Cultural Resources
Environmental Justice
Farm Lands (prime or unique)
Floodplains
Native American Religious Concerns
Paleontological Resources
Relict Environments
Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Species
Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Water Quality (drinking/ground)
Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

NO ACTION

Under this alternative, no-impact commercial filming permits would be addressed on a case-by-case basis, and separate environmental assessments would be prepared for each proposal when WSAs or the Monument are involved. This alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the proposed action.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND ELIMINATED

Other alternatives involved restricting no-impact filming from certain WSAs or portions of WSAs. However, because the proposed action is “no-impact”, there are no resource issues or impacts to be resolved through other action alternatives.

Chapter 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

This EA would affect all Utah BLM wilderness study areas and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Extensive descriptions of the affected environment, including lands within WSAs, are contained in the respective Utah BLM field office land use plans; the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS, November, 1990; The Utah Statewide Wilderness Study Reports, October, 1991; and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Proposed Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), July, 1999 and in current BLM land use plan/EISs.

3.2 million acres of the 22 million acres of BLM lands in Utah are in 95 WSAs, including 17 in the 1.9 million acre Monument. Casual use of WSAs occurs and no permits are required. Approximately 50 no-impact commercial filming permits per year are anticipated. Crews generally stay in local hotels and motels, making a small contribution to the local economy.

Chapter 4

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Proposed Action

The proposed activity would not appreciably add to the acceptable level of direct impacts already taking place within WSAs in Utah and within the Monument. Impacts to the appearance of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within WSAs are generally expected to be negligible, and temporary in nature. Because of

public interest in visiting areas depicted in published materials, there is some potential for increased visitation to areas that are captured on the resulting commercial films. Interest in visitation generally increases immediately following publication or broadcast, but rapidly declines to previous levels. There could be positive socioeconomic impacts by providing greater opportunities for commercial filming activities in Utah.

Potential impacts to listed species would be minimized by requiring compliance with the terms contained in the *Utah Field Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances*, as well as compliance with the willow flycatcher measures described above.

The potential for disturbance to any listed bird species would be reduced by implementation of the measures discussed above including the terms contained in the *Utah Field Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances* as discussed above.

Therefore, BLM has determined that implementation of the proposed action "may affect, but would not likely adversely affect" any listed bird species that may occur within the WSAs or the Monument due to discountable or insignificant affects and conservation measures discussed above. Because no surface disturbance would be allowed, no adverse modification of existing or proposed designated critical habitat would occur.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures are contained in the proposed action.

No Action

With the No Action Alternative, it is assumed that BLM would not authorize no-impact commercial filming permits in WSAs. Filming would continue as part of casual use, but films of WSAs and the Monument would not be published and distributed for commercial purposes. Because no-impact commercial filming is of the nature of casual use, the environmental consequences of the No Action Alternative would be essentially the same as with the Proposed Action Alternative. Slight, short-term increases in visitation that generally follow broadcasts of films of public lands, including WSAs and the Monument, would be avoided by this alternative.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

Because the proposed activities are of the nature of casual use, and only 50 or fewer permits would be issued each year, the only cumulative impacts expected would be minor positive socioeconomic impacts of greater opportunities for commercial filming activities across the state over time. In addition, there is some potential for increased visitation to areas that are captured on the resulting commercial films which could have a minor affect on local economies. Environmental impacts would be essentially the same with both the Proposed and No Action Alternatives.

Chapter 5

PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Copies of the EA were mailed to:

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Sierra Club, Utah Chapter

Wilderness Society

Notice of the proposed action was posted on the Utah ENBB on May 8, 2006. The public could comment on this EA until June 7, 2006. No comments were received.

List of Preparers

BLM Preparers

Name	Title
Rhonda Flynn	Realty Specialist
Greg Thayn	Environmental Coordinator
Margaret Kelsey	Wilderness Coordinator
Garth Portillo	Archeologist
Suzanne Garcia	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Ron Bolander	T&E Specialist

An interdisciplinary team reviewed the proposed action. Their findings are included in Appendix A, Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist.

Appendix A

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

Project Title: No-impact Filming in WSAs and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument

NEPA Log Number: UT-USO-06-004

File/Serial Number: N/A

Project Leader: Rhonda Flynn

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for significant impact analyzed in detail in the EA; or identified in a DNA as requiring further analysis

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section C of the DNA form.

Determina-tion	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality	The proposed filming activities would not be a source of air pollution emissions. Since the filming activities are of the nature of casual use, any fugitive dust created by vehicles used to transport people and equipment would be approximately the same as is presently occurring.	/s/ Greg Thayn	6/01/06
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Existing or Potential ACECs are not within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, but overlap some WSAs. However, the no-impact nature of the permitted use should have no effect on the relevant and important criteria of these areas.	/s/ Maggie Kelsey	6/2/06
NI	Cultural Resources	No direct impacts to cultural resources but a negligible potential for secondary impacts should the filming area become more popular for visitors as a result of the filming.	/s/ Garth Portillo	8/24/06
NI	Environmental Justice	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 12898 ("Environmental Justice") require federal agencies to identify and address "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." In accordance with CEQ Environmental Justice Guidelines, minority populations should be identified and effects to them analyzed, if either of the following two conditions apply: (1) of those likely to be affected by the Proposed Action, 50 percent or more would be part of the minority population, and (2) within the project area, the minority population percentage is greater than the minority population percentage outside the project area or in the general population. Neither of these conditions applies to the project area for this effort. Therefore, implementation and potential environmental consequences of the actions considered in this EA would not disproportionately affect any specific group of people (including any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group).	/s/ Matthew Higdon	4/28/06

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Most lands within the WSA's within the state are not considered prime or unique farmlands. There may be minor areas of soils that would qualify as prime farmland if irrigated, but due to scarcity of water sources for irrigation, these generally do not qualify as prime or unique farmland. No activities authorized under this proposed action would preclude any qualified areas from ever becoming prime farmland if irrigation water was to become available.	/s/ Lisa Bryant	5/23/06
NI	Floodplains	Filming activity considered minor as described in EA with probable insignificant impacts to floodplains.	/s/ Tom Mendenhall	5/01/06
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species	Meeting non-impairment criteria with regard to no-disturbance of soils and vegetation should significantly minimize risk of increases in invasive species due to activities authorized in the proposed action. There is still the risk of introducing noxious weeds or invasive species carried on equipment, vehicles, or clothing, but generally not a significant addition to existing risks of impacts. Recommend that permit stipulations include weed prevention measures such as inspecting equipment and clothing for vegetation matter and seeds and enforcement of weed free feed for horse related filming/photos, etc...	/s/ Lisa Bryant	5/23/06
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	No direct impacts to Native American Religious Concerns but a negligible potential for secondary impacts should the filming area become more popular for visitors as a result of the filming.	/s/ Garth Portillo	8/24/06
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	Because no surface disturbance would result from the implantation of the proposed action, BLM has determined that there would be "No Effect" to listed threatened or endangered plant species. No adverse impact would occur to candidate plant species.	/s/ Ronald Bolander	6/25/2006
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	Informal section seven consultation has been completed with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They have concurred with the BLM finding that implementation of the proposed action (including committed mitigation) "May Affect, But Would Not Likely Adversely Affect" and listed animal species. It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposed action would lead to consideration of the need to list any candidate species as threatened or endangered.	/s/ Ronald Bolander	6/25/2006
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Any wastes associated with the proposed actions would probably be de minimis, and should be cleaned up immediately by the permittee.	/s/ Lowell Jeffcoat	5/11/06
NI	Water Quality (drinking/ground)	Filming activity considered minor as described in EA with probable insignificant impacts to either drinking or ground water.	/s/ Tom Mendenhall	5/01/06
NI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Filming activity considered minor as described in EA with probable insignificant impacts to either wetlands or to riparian areas.	/s/ Tom Mendenhall	5/01/06
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers	River segments determined suitable for congressional designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System are within Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, and eligible/suitable river segments are within some WSAs. However, the no-impact nature of the permitted use should have no effect on the outstandingly remarkable values or tentative classifications of these river segments.	/s/ Maggie Kelsey	6/2/06
NI	Wilderness	Designated wilderness is not involved. Impacts to wilderness study areas would be negligible and temporary.	/s/ Maggie Kelsey	6/2/06
OTHER RESOURCES / CONCERNS**				

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	The scattered and limited nature of the proposed use will not affect Rangeland Health Standards (RHS). Close to 9 million acres have been inventoried for RHS in Utah, as of 10/1/05, of which almost 6 million are meeting RHS. The level of proposed use on these vast acres would not affect these lands ability to meet RHS. The proposed use would not prevent the BLM from implementing the Guidelines for livestock management if this would be necessary due to rangelands not meeting standard for other reasons.	/s/ Larry Lichthardt	6/6/06
NI	Livestock Grazing	The limited amount of proposed use during filming is not expected to disturb livestock grazing on BLM lands. The landscape associated with Utah's WSAs and the Monument result in scattered livestock use that would not be affected by the proposed action. When compared to the normal public activity on BLM lands the proposal is not expected to affect livestock grazing activities on BLM lands.	/s/ Larry Lichthardt	6/6/06
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Since there will be no surface disturbance, activities that may impact woodlands and forests will not be authorized under this proposed action.	/s/ Kathy Radigan	5/30/06
NI	Vegetation including Special Status Plant Species other than FWS candidate or listed species	Because no surface disturbance would occur as a result of implementation of the proposed action, no adverse impacts to non-listed special status plant species is anticipated.	/s/ Ronald Bolander	6/26/06
NI	Fish and Wildlife Including Special Status Species other than FWS candidate or listed species e.g. Migratory birds.	Casual use, by definition, is considered non-impacting and short-term, therefore no surface disturbing, long-term impacts would be authorized, and no significant impacts to fish and wildlife species would be expected to occur. Any activity that would take place within raptor habitat would be subject to the conditions outlined in the <i>Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances</i> (USDI, FWS, 2002).	/s/ Steve Madsen	5/30/06
NI	Soils	By definition, activities that may impact soils will not be authorized under this proposed action.	/s/ Lisa Bryant	5/23/06
NI	Recreation	It is expected that the proposed activities would have a negligible impact on recreation opportunities.	/s/ Suzanne Garcia	5/22/06
NI	Visual Resources	By policy, visual resource management (VRM) for all WSAs is to be established through planning as VRM Class I, the most protective class. A large percentage of the Monument is WSA, and all of the visual resources of the Monument are sensitive. Because of the no-impact nature of the permitted use, any disturbance would be negligible and temporary.	/s/ Maggie Kelsey	6/2/06
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	There is limited, if any, solid mineral activity within WSAs and within the GSENM. Because the filming permit does not include surface disturbing activity, and each case will be reviewed at the local Field Office on a case by case basis, damage to unique geologic features, or conflicts with locatable or salable mineral operations, are not anticipated. Coal is present in the GSENM, however, development is not allowed. Coal does occur within some WSA boundaries; however, development is generally prohibited in these areas. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated. Fluid mineral resources are present in some, although exploration and development activities are generally prohibited. The proposed action would have no impacts on these resources.	/s/ Greg Hudson	5/30/06
NI	Paleontology	The proposed activities would have no direct impacts to paleontological resources and a negligible potential for secondary impacts should the filming area become more popular for visitors as a result of the filming.	/s/ Scott Foss	8/21/06

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Lands / Access	Filming activities would necessitate vehicle use only on existing roads and trails designated as open to vehicular use. Walking, hiking or horseback riding would occur on existing trails and cross-country. Filming activities would not conflict with use by the public or require closures.	/s/ Rhonda Flynn	5/01/06
NI	Fuels / Fire Management	Filming activity during the summer fire season needs to carry fire suppression equipment. A shovel, water to suppress fires would be needed. The local office should be contacted for fire restrictions and hazardous fire conditions. During fire season vehicles should remain on roads that lack annual grasses that could be ignited by catalytic converters or hot mufflers.	/s/ Sheldon Wimmer	5/31/06
NI	Socio-economics	Minor positive socioeconomic impacts of greater opportunities for commercial filming activities across the state over time. In addition, there is some potential for increased visitation to areas that are captured on the resulting commercial films which could have a minor affect on local economies.	/s/ Greg Thayn	6/13/06
NI	Wild Horses and Burros	Wild horses & burros are scattered across the state of Utah in 22 different herd management areas. Animals occur on several WSAs and a small population occurs within the GSENM. Due to the limited activity expected from no-impact filming, and wild nature (fear & flight factors) of wild horses & burros, no impact is anticipated from the proposed action.	/s/ Gus Warr	5/01/06
NI	Wilderness characteristics	Within the Monument there are non-WSA lands that were determined to have wilderness characteristics in the "1999 Utah Wilderness Inventory". Because of the no-impact nature of the permitted use, any effect on the appearance of naturalness or outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation would be negligible and temporary.	/s/ Maggie Kelsey	6/2/06

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA / Environmental Coordinator	/s/ Gregory Thayn	8/30/06	
Utah State Director	/s/ Henri Bisson	9/6/06	

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

No-Impact Commercial Filming on BLM-Managed Lands in Utah within Wilderness Study Areas and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
EA-UT-USO-06-004

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

Decision: The Selected Alternative is the Proposed Action**Summary of the Selected Alternative:**

The proposed action is to issue no-impact commercial filming permits on BLM-managed public lands in Utah within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Rationale:

The action is in conformance to all applicable land use plans, the BLM Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) and is consistent with local, state, and other federal plans.

Only the negligible impacts normally associated with casual use of the public lands would occur. In fact, except for its commercial nature, the proposed use meets the definition of casual use under 43 CFR 2920.0-5(k). The proposed action meets the wilderness study area non-impairment standard, and the permitted activities will be temporary.

Because BLM frequently receives applications for no-impact commercial filming permits in WSAs, preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment was determined to be the most efficient and effective method of meeting requirements for NEPA analysis, notifying the public of a proposed commercial use in WSAs and facilitating timely processing of permit applications for non-impacting commercial filming. The public will be notified 30 days in advance of filming activities in WSAs as required by the IMP.

/s/ Henri R. Bisson
Utah State Director (signature)

9/6/06
Date of signature